

Block Grant Program will be recommended for funding at \$1.7 billion—over a half billion dollars below what is our authorized level, what is our commitment to the States. This figure is below what was approved by the Senate. This figure is also below the \$1.9 billion that the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee approved for this program.

The raiding of the Title XX program should serve as an example of what can happen when a program is block granted. Our experience with the social services block grant should serve as a red flag as we structure other social services funding.

Those, for instance, who might succumb to the siren call of block grants for education should take note. A Federal program which serves a largely politically voiceless group of Americans, as Hubert Humphrey described, those who live in the dawn of life, our children, those who live in the twilight of life, our elderly, and those who live in the shadows of life, the disabled, these are the Americans who will be at risk, just as they are at risk today with the slashing of funding of the social services block grant. They will be at risk if we move towards the same pattern of funding for important national programs such as education. Because they will not have the HMOs' lobbyists, they will not have the PACs to represent their interests, to ensure they get their share when the Federal largess is divided, they are likely to get the scraps that are left over.

I urge the President of the United States to veto this legislative elephant which is squashing the ant. I urge that he veto the legislation that would fund the Departments of Labor and HHS, and the District of Columbia because we, the Congress, can do better. We need to be given the opportunity and the challenge to do so.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the CQ Daily Monitor, Oct. 27, 1999]
GOP LEADERS ORDER HYDE TO KILL BILL ON
DOCTOR BARGAINING
(By Karen Foerstel)

After an intense lobbying campaign by managed care plans, House GOP leaders have killed for the year—at least—a bill that would allow doctors to bargain collectively with health plans.

The bill (HR 1304), sponsored by Tom Campbell, R-Calif., had been scheduled for a markup in the House Judiciary Committee Tuesday. But Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, Ill., on Monday asked committee Chairman Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., to yank it.

"It won't be dealt with this year," Hyde said. "The leadership decided that they were involved with other health care issues and this was the . . . one that broke the camel's back. It's extra weight on a complicated issue. They felt it was another area of focus they don't need right now."

On Oct. 7, after months of heated negotiations and debate, the House passed a broad patients' rights measure (HR 2723, later HR 2990) after voting down a much narrower

package backed by Hastert. The issue has long been a thorn in the side of the GOP leadership, which favors allowing the market place—rather than government—to regulate managed care.

The Campbell bill would for the first time allow independent doctors who contract with health plans to bargain collectively on everything from fees to who determines the treatment a patient receives. Health insurance groups strongly oppose the bill, arguing that doctors would be able to fix prices and drive up health insurance premiums. Doctors, led by the American Medical Association, back the measure. They say health plans are beginning to monopolize the patient market, and that doctors often have no choice but to sign restrictive contracts in order to stay in business.

Hyde said that, along with Hastert, rank-and-file members who had been contacted by the health insurance industry asked him to pull the bill.

The chairman said he still wants to pursue the issue in the future but could not say if he would ever mark up the Campbell bill. "I don't know," he said. "I'm interested in doing something with the difficult relationship between doctors, HMOs and insurers. I don't think the problem will go away, nor will our responsibility [to address it]."

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RALPH TASKER "A COACHING LEGEND"

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who touched the lives of each person he came into contact with throughout his teaching and coaching career. Coach Ralph Tasker was a respected person, and a perfect gentleman. He always looked for the good in people and had that rare ability to bring out the best in others.

Born and raised in Moundville, West Virginia, Coach Tasker took up basketball when he was five years old. This was his common bond with most of his friends. In Moundville, nearly everyone worked in coal mines except for Tasker's parents, who owned and operated a grocery store. He played basketball in high school, earning all-state honors in his junior and senior campaigns. From there he played four years at Alderson-Broadbudd College, and this is where he met his wife, Mar-

garet Elizabeth Marple. The two were married and devoted to each other for nearly fifty years until Margaret passed away in 1991.

Tasker began his coaching career straight out of college at Sulphur Springs High School in Sulphur Springs, Ohio, in 1941. He spent less than a year at Sulphur Springs, but even then made an impact on his students and players. Tasker went beyond the role of coach and teacher, as he was always a friend to his students and players. From his first year in coaching, his students considered Coach Tasker a father figure. Those who knew Coach Tasker describe him as dedicated, sincere, and loyal to his players and community.

After leaving Sulphur Springs, Coach Tasker served our country for three years in the U.S. Air Corps. He then accepted another coaching position in New Mexico at Lovington High School. After three years and one state championship with Lovington, Coach Tasker moved twenty miles south to Hobbs High School, where he would remain for the rest of his coaching career. Forty-nine years, eleven state championships, two perfect seasons, and two National High School Coach of the Year awards later, Coach Tasker decided to retire. In fifty-three years of coaching, Tasker had a remarkable collection of achievements. He finished with 1,122 wins and 291 losses, which ranks him as the third place coach in total number of wins in high school boys' basketball history. Among many honors, he was elected to four different halls of fame, won twelve state championships, and in 1991 was named the National Athletic Coach of the Year in the prestigious Walt Disney National Teacher Awards Program.

Coach Tasker was slow to take credit, but quick to praise. He often said, "When you've got players like I've got, they make a great coach out of you." He was uncomfortable in the limelight, and even chose to put his awards away in drawers, preferring to display artwork by his grandchildren. Coach Tasker always sought to uplift his children, grandchildren, students, and players.

Mr. President, Coach Ralph Tasker passed away on Monday, July 19, 1999, after a brief bout with cancer. I trust the Senate will join me in honoring one of the greatest men in the sports history of New Mexico and this country. He will be missed by everyone. I believe my friend Senator DOMENICI put it best when he said, "The passing of Ralph Tasker marks the loss of an institution in Hobbs and in New Mexico."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GARRETSON, SD, CHAPTER OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have spoken many times to my colleagues in